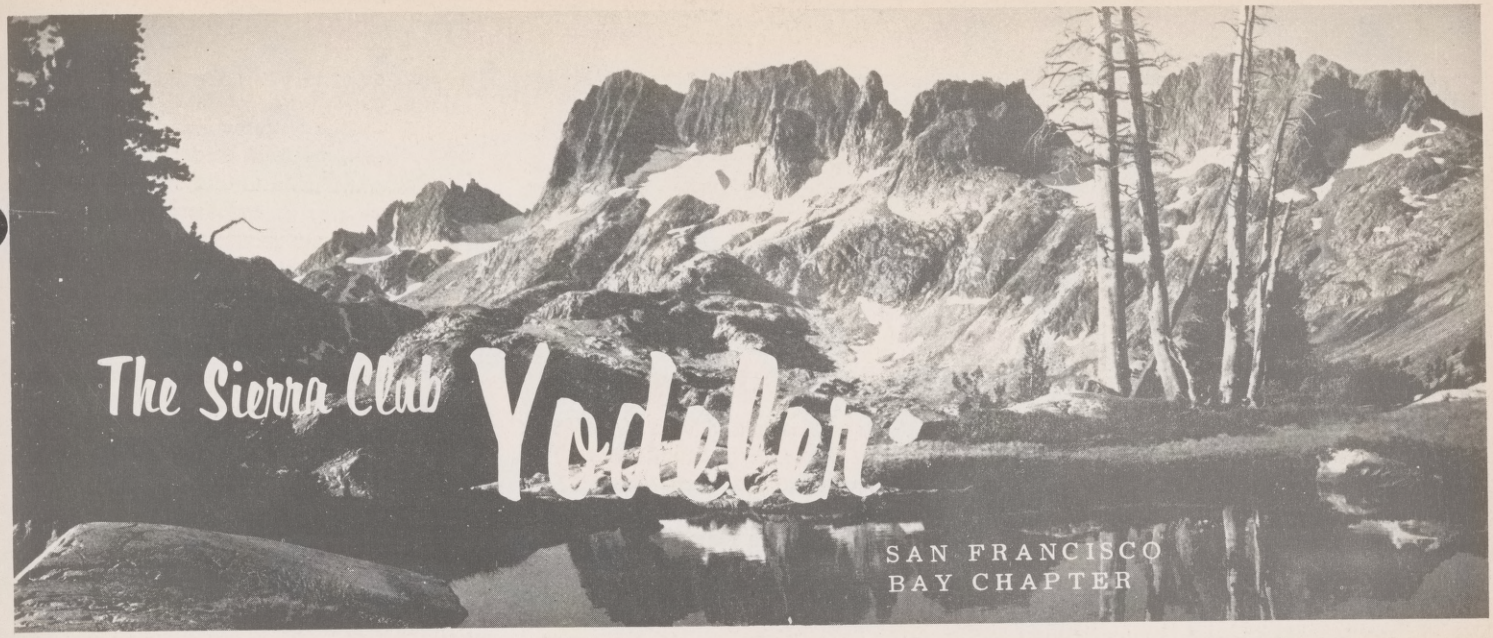

Volume XXI November 2, 1959 Number 16

CONGRESS & CONSERVATION

In the October 16 issue of the Southern Sierran there is a column of notes on conservation in the recent session of Congress. It is written by Conservation Committee member Dan Thrapp, so we are appointing Dan as guest reporter for this issue of the Yodeler, without his knowledge but sure of his consent.

After discussing the Wilderness Bill (which was reported in the last issue of the Yodeler), the story continues:

Also to be acted upon next session is the bill to establish the huge Arctic Wildlife Range in Alaska, perhaps one of the major conservation tasks before us. Many another project pales by comparison with this mammoth and far-reaching proposal.

You heard, of course, that the bill to protect wild horses and burros from inhumane slaughter on public lands was passed by both houses and signed into law. It was long overdue. Its provisions should be extended to prevent aerial hunting of coyotes and wolves. Far stiffer penalties should be provided to cut down on the flagrant use of airplane spotters by elk hunters and other "sportsmen". This is illegal now, but not illegal enough to curtail those bums.

Conservationists were happy to see Congress pass authorization to expand the Fish and Wildlife research program on the effects of pesticides on fish and wildlife. But they failed to prevent authorization of $2.4 million for fire-ant "eradication" by the Department of Agriculture. You might say, "Well, who wants fire-ants, anyway?" and the answer would be "Nobody", because they aren't native to this country, but the sledgehammer type of eradication does harm to other forms of wildlife that

(continued on page 2)

MEMORIAL TO CEDRIC WRIGHT

With great regret we report the death, on November 2, of Cedric Wright. Member since March, 1920, he was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1956 and a Patron Member of the Club in January, 1959, after his generous donation of all of his photographic material and negatives to the Sierra Club. The record on the index card says nothing about the spirit that shone through the frame. When this reporter first met Cedric he was lying almost in the water of a Sierra stream photographing the pattern of willows which met overhead. Through an experience of many High Trips on which Cedric was official photographer we all came to know him as a buoyant spirit, wide open to the beauty of the world around. There will be more formal memorials but the best memory of Cedric is of a high Sierra lunch stop when he pulled out a camera to take a black pot boiling on the fire and remarked "You never know, do you? You go around a corner, and there is a picture."

—CMC

Gifts in memory of Cedric Wright may take the form of donations to the Sierra Club Memorial Fund. No flowers, by request.

It is expected that the memorial will take the form of publication of the "Words of the Earth": the best of Cedric's photography and poetic expression about the Sierra wilderness.

LIVERMORE LOST

Sunday hikers who followed Van Vlear on his Livermore Ranch hike October 25, in the mountains east of Calistoga had a right enjoyable day, some because the hike took them into a new and scenic corner of Napa County and others because they were walking over a familiar and well loved countryside. Members of the Redwood Chapter who took the hike last year were disappointed that the warm fall weather of '59 had not allowed the autumn colors to develop to last year's peak of beauty, but they were delighted to offer timely refreshments in the afternoon to their Bay Area colleagues from the old apple tree near some abandoned ranch buildings and to follow up with good cold water from a small stream a few steps further.

For those who expressed an interest in the picturesque lava outcrops, such as "Elephant Rock" and the cliffs along the western margin of the ridge, the following information is condensed from references to the Sonoma Volcanics in the Geologic Guidebook of San Francisco Bay Counties, Bull. 154 of the Division of Mines, and Geology and Ground Water in the Santa Rosa and Petaluma Valley Areas, Sonoma County California, Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1427.

The lavas belong to the Sonoma Volcanics, a middle and upper Pliocene formation found in parts of Sonoma, Napa, and Lake Counties, which consists of a series of lava flows, agglomerates, tuffs and incalated sediments of volcanic debris. These volcanics accumulated over an area some 30 miles in east-west extent by about 40 miles in north-south extent. Mounts St. Helena, Cobb, Boggs and Hood are famil-

(continued on page 2)

Sierra Club Yodeler

A semi-monthly publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Subscription $2.00
Accommodation Ads (Members) $.50 per ad
Accommodation Ads (Non-Members) $1.50 per inch

YODELER STAFF
Erwin D. Blodgett, Editor
Cicely M. Christy — Anna Rind
Marian Jordan

Cartoonist — Elaine Simpson
Production Manager — A. Louis Elliott

NEXT DEADLINE: Nov. 16

VOLUME XXI NO. 16 Nov. 2, 1959

ELECTION RESULTS

The ballots for the S.F. Bay Chapter Executive Committee election were counted on Saturday, October 31. The winners were incumbents Wesley Bunnelle, Philip W. Faulconer, Glenn H. Gaumer, Donald P. Huber, and Claudia Owen. Welcomed as new members of the Committee are Bruce B. Grant, Paul Grunland, Margaret Gwinn, and Lyn R. Wright. The two amendments on the ballot passed almost unanimously, with only 7 "No's" being recorded against Amendment #1 and only 3 "Negatives" against Amendment #2.

There were a total of 1248 ballots cast in the election. The newly formed Executive Committee will take office at the first regular meeting in January.

Congratulations to the winners - and many thanks to all who ran.

—EDB

Conservation Cont.

are desirable, and that's where we raise objections.

You may be interested to know that although on paper the National Park Service budget of $80,075,000 was cut by $4,353,000, enough money was granted to continue without curtailment the all-important "Mission 66" program.

The Forest Service received $905,000 for wildlife work--the most in its history, even if it isn't much in these days when anything less than $50 million is referred to committee.

Several bills to establish National Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites and Seashores were introduced, but none passed.

Better luck next time.

Maybe.

NATURAL SCIENCE

The Natural Science Section will visit the new quarters of the Botany Department and the Eastwood Hall of Botany of the California Academy of Sciences on Saturday, November 21, 1959. Meet in the Eastwood Hall of Botany at 3:30 P.M. We will go to dinner afterwards.

—Elizabeth McClintock

INDIAN FOOD (before TV)

Dr. Erhard Rostlund gave a most interesting (and amusing) talk on the food of the California Indians to the Natural Science Section. Apparently our Indians were well-fed, with an adequately nutritional balance, and without the periodic famines that are so terribly familiar to many primitive tribes. The Indians were well acquainted with the ways of the animals on their terrain as well as the varied plant life. They planted no crops of their own, but the indigenous nuts were an important staple of their diet. They ate a few greens such as miners lettuce but did not have cooked vegetables. Game and fresh or salt-water fish were plentiful in their respective habitats.

The methods of cookery were numerous: baking, broiling, boiling, steaming, drying, smoking — about the only method that they did not employ was frying (probably to the benefit of their digestion). They did not eat raw meat as a planned part of their menu, though it was acceptable in a pinch. They had deep pit barbecues, they broiled over fires, dropped hot rocks into their excellent water-tight baskets, and preserved a great deal of meat and fish over low fires. They blanched the bitter acorns, pounded them into meal, and baked little cakes on hot rocks.

—Elsa Bailey

CTL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This year makrs the 25th anniversary of the building of Clair Tappaan Lodge. The Lodge Committee and Management are planning to hold a dinner and celebration at the Lodge on November 21 to honor the original builders of the lodge and those who through the years have worked to expand and improve it.

All who are interested are invited to attend. We hope that Old Timers will come to reminisce, visit with more recent workers and view the latest changes in the building.

We are particularly interested in photographs of the early stages of construction of the building as well as modifications prior to 1950. Photos will be copied and returned to their owners.

The dinner and lodging will be by reservation. Those interested may obtain details by sending a note to Kay Homsey at 1931 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

Ski Swap is Here Again!

The Alpineer Club's 2nd Annual "SKI-SWAP" will be held Saturday, November 7, 1959, 4:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M., California Hall, Polk and Turk Streets, San Francisco.

The purpose of the SKI-Swap. To give new skiers the chance to buy used equipment and, for the experienced skier, an opportunity to obtain the money needed to buy new and better equipment at the local ski shops.

Here's how it will work: If you have any used ski equipment you wish to sell—skis, boots, poles, bindings, pants, parkas, sleeping bags, or just any related articles —bring them to the SKI-SWAP. We will register and help you price each article, place it on display tables for sale and then, anyone wishing to purchase the equipment may do so by paying for it at our Cashier's Desk. You, as the seller, get the full price when the article is sold. This is a service of the Alpineer Club, Inc. There will be a nominal 10¢ per article registration charge to help cover the cost of the Registration and Identification Tags.

The SKI-SWAP is FREE to everyone who wishes to come down and join the fun. There will be a Folk Dance demonstration by members of the Alpineer Club, a photo display of the Sugar Bowl Ski Area, and a large refreshment bar for your convenience. Our lovely Bay Area Snow Queens will again be modeling the latest in ski fashions.

The display booths occupied by eight of the Bay Area's leading sports shops will give you a preview of the newest and finest ski clothes and equipment available today. Door prizes donated by the participating ski shops will be awarded throughout the evening.

—EDB

Livermore Cont.

iar landmarks which owe their prominence, at least in part, to the resistant lavas. None of these peaks, however, has been identified by geologists as the source of the volcanic material. The sources were apparently numerous vents and fissures that intermittently erupted materials of variable composition during a long period so that an extremely complex assemblage of flows, plugs, mudflows, agglomerates, breccias, pumice beds, and intercalated layers of tuffaceous land-laid sediments was formed. These rocks have been folded, faulted, and eroded so that they now form a series of elongated ridges, of which the Sonoma and Mayacmas Mountains are well known examples.

—Charlotte Stephens

TOMALES BAY

On October 17th sixteen river tourers set off to explore Tomales Bay starting just inside the mouth of the Bay at the Dillon's Beach campground area. Procrastinating until 11:00 a.m. had not brought out the sun and we dipped our paddles in calm, grey water under a heavy, grey, overcast sky. We travelled into the bay with the incoming tide, keeping close to the western shore where the still water was very clear in shallow spots and revealed a remarkable population of star fish, sea urchins and jelly fish.

We stopped for lunch and although the tide had now changed we decided to continue into the bay in order to explore an island that was just visible against a fog bank. We finally reached it and found it full of atmosphere with the ruins of an abandoned house and a haunted looking grove of moss-hung trees. But many of us were tired and chilly by this time and we were glad to turn around and travel out again with the tide.

As we made the return trip the water birds were particularly evident. Squadrons of birds patrolling the water up and down and birds skimming the surface passed close by us repeatedly. The silent, gliding motion of the kayaks seemed to cause a minimum of alarm and some ducks, pelicans, and sea lions were frankly curious. Whiskery noses and bright little eyes followed us appearing on one side and then the other and occasionally the whole head of a sea lion would rise up to get a better look at us.

On Sunday another overcast day, which was also chilly and windy, discouraged further boating. After a long, long breakfast and a short walk each car load went its own way looking for a sunny day or a good place to hike.

—E. Simpson

Nature Conservancy Meets Deadline

The necessary funds have been received for the down payment on the Elk Creek valley in Mendocino County which the Nature Conservancy is trying to save as a complete watershed. 6000 acres of private property here is really a "museum piece" of natural forest and meadow.

Leases on public domain around the ridges can protect the little valley. This special piece of the Coast Range is lucky; it is owned by a true conservationist, who is asking far less than its market price.

There will be another payment to meet next spring, but there is hope that interest will continue to rise.

—C.M.C.

West Pt. Schedule

West Point Club Hostess Schedule for November and December, 1959

Nov. 7-8	Edna Laumann	TH 5-8557 Evenings
*Nov.14-15	Wanda Goody & Mary Garland	SK 1-4295 Anytime
Nov.21-22	Esther & Roy Crites	GR 4-1666 Anytime
*Nov. 26	Thanksgiving dinner only Ann Cole & Harry Kornfeld	PR 6-4194 Anytime
Nov.28-29	Carolyn Nelson	TU 5-0514 Anytime
*Dec. 5-6	Avis Burchard	WE 1-0739 Anytime
Dec.12-13	Eleanor Locey	LA 6-6568 Anytime
Dec.19-20	Unscheduled	
Dec.26-27	Monta Johnson	JU 5-1164 Evenings
*Dec.31-Jan.1	Ray & Ruth L'Esperance Deluxe New Year's Eve dinner. Extra charge, reservations must be covered by payment in advance. DU 8-0434—anytime.	

*Central Commissary. Cancellations of reservations must be made by Thursday or party must pay for weekend.

SNOW QUEEN

You are most cordially invited to participate in a gala social evening starting off the 1960 Olympic celebrations. Del Courtney's popular music will set the tempo for an evening of enjoyment and entertainment and will usher in the crowning of the Bay Area Ski Federation 1960 Winter Olympic Snow Queen. All proceeds of the affair will be donated to the United States Winter Olympic Committee for use in supporting the United States teams. The modest donation of $2.50 per person is tax deductible and purchase of 10 or more tickets entitle the donor to receive the coveted souvenir Olympic record book published at the conclusion of the games.

The highlight of the dance will be the presentation of the BASF-Olympic Snow Queen. She will be chosen from a group of beautiful entries, each sponsored by one of the member clubs of the Federation. The lovely queen will be crowned the 1960 winner, and will reign over the BASF winter carnival at the Sugar Bowl in March.

Please join us at the Hotel Mark Hopkins, Peacock Court, on Friday, November 13th, 9 to 1. Tickets are available at local sport shops, local ski clubs, or write BASF, 1159 Clay Street, San Francisco. Tickets at Office and Don Huber.

—EDB

Knapsack Mountain Safety Committee

The Sierra Club by nature is first and foremost a conservation organization. We are also interested in conserving people and their energies.

The latest report on American mountaineering accidents emphasizes the importance of first aid training.

With so many people going into the mountains weekends, leaders of trips have a responsibility to train themselves for their job.

The Mountain Safety Committee plans to set up a leader training program, under which qualifying leaders must have Red Cross first aid instruction and must be competent at topo map and compass reading. In grading trips and leaders, consideration will be given to difficulty of trip and to limitations of leaders.

More details will be published later.

NOTE: All leaders are required to have passed the Standard First Aid course. We suggest if you are going to lead in the future — or even if you are not — it would be well to have first aid instruction. A new Standard course will start November 19 at the Red Cross Headquarters, 1625 Van Ness Avenue. Hours are 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and the course will run five weeks. The textbook may be purchased at Stacey's, 551 Market Street, or from the instructor at the first meeting of the class, for 75 cents.

If you wish to attend the class—anyone may attend, whether or not Knapsackers—send a card with your name, address and phone number to Doug. Peterson, 954 Ashbury Street, San Francisco 17. If there are enough replies to justify classes on both sides of the Bay, this can be ar-

—Doug. Peterson,
Knapsack Chairman

Note on Hike of Dec.13

No firm arrangements have yet been made for the Point Reyes National Seashore area hike on December 13. Larry Williams will lead the hike, which will be partly an automobile tour, noting the points of interest which can be seen from the highway and then driving to either Drake County beach or McClure Beach in the afternoon. Permission has not yet come through for the short hike we plan during the morning into the wooded country of Inverness Ridge. Until it does, we cannot give you details but we do have to warn you that, since this is strictly private land, we cannot invite large numbers of hikers. The trip is for those who have not yet had a chance to see this wooded ridge. Others are welcome to join us at the beach. More details in next Yodeler.

River Touring Section

At the section meeting October 13, we all worked together toward planning next spring's schedule of trips and training meetings. We voted for our new chairman and John Bombay was elected. John is a dynamic person, particularly interested in helping newcomers get acquainted with the sport and has a number of promising ideas for the coming year.

Larry Zuk, from Denver and member of the White Water Association, was in the bay area over the weekend of October 24th. Red Cockerline, Peter Whitney, and John Bombay took him down one of California's finest rivers, the Feather, on the stretch above Oroville. Larry said that he thoroughly enjoyed this wild and beautiful run.

The next meeting of the River Touring Section will be as usual on the second Tuesday of the month, on November 10th, at 8 o'clock in the Lake Merritt boathouse. Everyone interested in river touring is cordially invited.

TIME VALUE
Please Expedite

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CALIF.
PERMIT 1929

SIERRA CLUB
1050 MILLS TOWER, 220 BUSH ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, 4, CALIFORNIA

FIRST AID CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT

A 10-hour Standard First Aid class will begin November 10, Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 Noon

PLACE: 1625 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco.

1. Come to Class dressed comfortably, so that you may take part in practical drills.
2. IF POSSIBLE please purchase your First Aid text book four or five days before the first class session. Study Chapter 1 and 2, pages 1 to 24. Also Chapter 10, pages 103 to 117.
   The price of the text book is 75¢. It may be purchased here at Chapter, 1625 Van Ness Avenue or at Stacy's Book Store, 551 Market Street, S.F.
3. Bring a 2" Roller Bandage to the first class session.

If you are unable to attend this class, please telephone PR 6-1500, Extension 331, and we will place your name on a list for future classes.

—John E. Wallace, Director

WANTED: 8 or 10 people to rent a cabin together for part or all of the Olympic Games. Cabin is near Chambers Lodge, 15 miles from Squaw Valley.

Simon Miedema
188 Vasquez Ave.
San Francisco
Phone LO 4-2706

Point Reyes FILM FUND

Your generous response to the appeal now assures completion of the principal film and its working copy, but we still look eagerly for those pink envelopes in the mail. Every dollar is important in promoting this film, making duplicates and advertising it for wide circulation.

There is one point we want to emphasize. Many small checks or bills have a note attached, stating, "I wish I could do more." Of course we like to receive checks for tens and hundreds of dollars, but we know so well that one or two dollars from a tight budget represents as much interest as a larger check.

In any case, we want to know HOW MANY members are interested, as well as HOW MUCH they can give. We want to be able to point to a wide public desire to achieve the whole project. —CMC

WORK 'till snow flies

Yes, work parties at Clair Tappaan are still going on, and will until Thanksgiving. The new Woman's Dorm is nearly finished and help is needed to complete the new Living Room Area. This will double the present recreational space. Other jobs include general maintenance and readying the building for winter use. Everyone who is willing to work is welcome to participate. For information call Dan Lee, TH 5-7161, Anita Suran, MO 4-5423, or Phyllis Macchiaverne, DI 2-5158.

Mountain Rescue Network

A Mountain Rescue Network, established by the Sierra Club and the Peace Officers' Association of California, was announced today, by Lt. Walt Wheelock, of Glendale, chairman of the joint committee, with the publication of a booklet listing services available both through the Peace Officers and the climbing groups. The Sheriffs of the various counties of the state will accept incoming calls for aid and the responsibility for dispatching the calls throughout the various mountain areas. The Sierra Club and other climbing groups will undertake to supply highly trained climbers for rescue work in locations that require these technical skills. Copies of the booklet are being supplied to all sheriff's offices throughout the state and will greatly expedite the movement of rescue groups to the scenes of mountain disasters.

—EDB

Santa Claus Beware!

Put sparkle in your holiday season with the Bay Chapter's annual Christmas Party. Herb Sable has planned a glittering program — and dancing, too, to Murray Peterson's orchestra. Friends, refreshments, and the glow of Christmas cheer will be awaiting you Saturday, December 12, at Bjornson Hall, 2258 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Tickets, $2.50 per person, are available from Walter Ochse. The scintillating party chairman is Georgella Perry!

—Bonnie Hubbard